

Board of Veterinary Examiners Response to Post Legislative Audit

Audits are an opportunity for organizations and businesses to have a new set of eyes look at policy and procedure, and review mission and task of the entity that is being audited. I have shared with the Board of Veterinary Examiners that audits are nothing to be afraid of. An audit is an opportunity to make an entity that is being audited an even better entity, in essence to raise the bar. In this case, Post Legislative auditors were assigned the task to audit the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners, who is charged with promoting public health, safety and welfare to the practice of veterinary medicine. The Board members and staff were all interviewed and four areas were summarized to improve upon by the auditors. They are as follows:

1) The agency will no longer accept cash payments from licensees and that has already been implemented by the Board in August, 2012.

2) The agency's inspection process will continue to be reviewed and improved upon and the Board has already approved an improved process to protect the public and is looking seriously of adding another inspector, as staff, to handle inspections and investigative complaints. The inspection process has only been a part of the Board's responsibility since 1997 and it is reviewed annually for opportunities to always make it better. Now that all licensed veterinarians can be inspected in the State of Kansas, these inspections will be unannounced.

3) The agency has addressed, and the Board has approved, the issue of improving written policies and procedures and will improve the policy and procedure manual for the licensing process, inspections, and complaint investigations.

4) A written furlough plan was submitted to and approved by the Department of Administration. Furlough time sheets the state provided to the executive director were completed and submitted back to the state for processing throughout the period of furlough. An audit finding that to this point has not been known is that the Department of Administration did not have the express authority to have approved any furlough plan for any unclassified employee. With

this new information the Board of Veterinary Examiners will not allow furlough of any unclassified staff member in the future since the law does not have any provision for unclassified employees to be eligible for furlough.

Legislative Post Audit conducted on the Board of Veterinary Examiners found a few areas that will make this agency an even stronger agency for Kansas. It is a privilege to be a veterinarian and a veterinary technician in the State of Kansas. A license for a veterinarian or a registration for a veterinary technician is not a right, but a privilege that comes with certain responsibilities. The Board of Veterinary Examiners is charged to protect the public, which is every citizen in the State of Kansas, in relationship to the practice of veterinary medicine. The Board and all the staff, takes this responsibility very seriously, and will continue to monitor its roles and responsibilities as it promotes public health, welfare and safety in the great State of Kansas. Please refer to the Kansas Legislative Post Audit Report dated 9-20-2012.

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Article Written on Sept 21, 2012